

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

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(f) Regardless of the number of districts in which a person produces or handles potatoes, each such person is entitled to cast only one vote on behalf of himself, his agents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and representatives, in designating nominees for committee members and alternates. In the event a person is engaged in producing or handling potatoes in more than one district, such person shall elect the district within which he may participate, as aforesaid, in designating nominees. An eligible voter's privilege of casting only one vote, as aforesaid, shall be construed to permit a voter to cast one vote for each position to be filled in the district in which he elects to vote.

(g) Nominations shall be supplied to the Secretary in such manner and form as the Secretary may prescribe, not later than May 1 of each year, or such other date as the Secretary may specify.

[23 FR 5709, July 30, 1958. Redesignated at 26 FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961, as amended at 53 FR 3188, Feb. 4, 1988]

§ 945.26 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner specified by the Secretary pursuant to § 945.25, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the committee members and alternates on the basis of the representation prescribed in this subpart.

§ 945.27 Acceptance.

Any person nominated to serve on the committee as a member or as an alternate shall qualify by filing a statement of willingness to serve with the Secretary.

[53 FR 3189, Feb. 4, 1988]

§ 945.28 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a committee member or as an alternate to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any qualified member or alternate, a successor for his unexpired term may be selected by the Secretary from nominations made in the manner specified in § 945.25 or the Secretary may select such committee member or

alternate from previously unselected nominees on the current nominee list from the district involved. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within 30 days after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made on the basis of the representation provided for in § 945.24.

§ 945.29 Alternate members.

An alternate member of the committee shall act in the place and stead of the member for whom he is an alternate during such member's absence and may perform such other duties as may be assigned or requested by the committee. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member his alternate shall act for him until a successor to such member is selected and has qualified. The committee may request the attendance of one or more alternates at any or all meetings, notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members.

§ 945.30 Procedure.

(a) A simple majority of all members of the committee, including alternates acting for members, shall be necessary to constitute a quorum or to pass any motion or approve any committee action, except any motion regarding a change in committee size shall require a unanimous vote. At any assembled meeting, all votes shall be cast in person.

(b) The committee may provide for meetings by telephone, telegraph or other means of communication and any vote cast at such meeting shall be confirmed promptly in writing.

[23 FR 5709, July 30, 1958. Redesignated at 26 FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961, as amended at 60 FR 29727, June 5, 1995]

§ 945.31 Expenses.

Committee members and alternates shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties and in the exercise of their powers under this subpart, and may receive compensation at a rate determined by the committee, and approved by the Secretary, for

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each day or portion thereof, spent in conducting committee business.

[53 FR 3189, Feb. 4, 1988]

§ 945.32 Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:

(a) To administer the provisions of this subpart in accordance with its terms;

(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this subpart;

(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violation of the provisions of this subpart; and

(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this subpart.

§ 945.33 Duties.

It shall be the duty of the committee:

(a) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer or handler;

(b) To select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, to select subcommittees of committee members, and to adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as it may deem advisable;

(c) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary and to determine the salaries and define the duties of each such person;

(d) To investigate, from time to time, and to assemble data on the growing, harvesting, shipping and marketing conditions with respect to potatoes, and to engage in such research and service activities which relate to the handling or marketing of potatoes as may be approved by the Secretary;

(e) To furnish to the Secretary such available information as he may request;

(f) To keep minutes, books, and records which clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and such minutes, books, and records shall be subject to examination at any time by the Secretary or his authorized agent or representative;

(g) To make available to producers and handlers the committee voting record on recommended regulations and on other matters of policy;

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(h) At the beginning of each fiscal period to submit to the Secretary a budget of its expenses for such fiscal period, together with a report thereon;

(i) To cause the books of the committee to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal period, and at such other time as the committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request. The report of such audit shall show the receipt and expenditure of funds collected pursuant to this subpart; a copy of each such report shall be furnished to the Secretary and a copy of each such report shall be made available at the principal office of the committee for inspection by producers and handlers; and

(j) To consult, cooperate and exchange information when deemed desirable by the committee with other potato marketing committees and other individuals or agencies in connection with all proper committee activities and objectives under this subpart.

BUDGET, EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 945.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary may find are reasonable and likely to be incurred during each fiscal period for its maintenance and functioning, and for such purposes as the Secretary, pursuant to this subpart, determines to be appropriate. Handlers shall share such expenses upon the basis of a fiscal period. Each handler's share of such expense shall be proportionate to the ratio between the total quantity of potatoes handled by him as the first handler thereof during a fiscal period and the total quantity of potatoes handled by all handlers as first handlers thereof during the same period.

§ 945.41 Budget.

At the beginning of each fiscal period, and as may be necessary thereafter, the committee shall prepare an estimated budget of income and expenditures necessary for the administration of this part. The committee may recommend a rate of assessment calculated to provide adequate funds to